31. *Town Planning Scheme.*—The expenditure on this scheme is expected to stand at Rs 9·5 lakhs at the close of this year and for the next year a sum of Rs 3·58 lakhs has been provided for the continuance of the works included in the scheme. The formation of a Special Town Planning Committee of the Trivandrum Municipal Council for drawing up a definite programme of work to be carried out under the Town Planning Scheme is in contemplation.

32. *The Council Chamber.*—The construction of the Council Chamber is making rapid progress and it is hoped that it would be possible very shortly to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Travancore Legislative Council. Water supply and electric fittings as also sanitary installations are proceeding side by side with the actual construction work. The expenditure on account of this work is expected to stand at Rs 1·68 lakhs at the close of the current year and for the next year the provision is Rs 1 lakh.

33. *Military Buildings.*—A regular programme of building construction is going on vigorously in the premises of the Military Head Quarters at Pangode to meet the needs of the general re-organisation of the State Forces. Buildings which were in progress last year are nearing completion and new ones also are being taken up. The total expenditure on the buildings is expected to stand at Rs 10·2 lakhs at the close of the current year and a provision of Rs 3 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget for the completion of the buildings already taken up and the construction of new ones which are found to be absolutely necessary.

34. *Railways.*—The capital charge for the Quilon-Trivandrum Railway and the Chackai-Thambanoor Extension at the close of the year ending 31st March 1937 was Bh Rs 53·63 lakhs and Rs 28·33 lakhs respectively. The budget estimate for 1114 provides for a net credit of Rs 29,600 on account of the relinquishment of lands acquired for Railway purposes at the old station at Chackai. The agreement between the Secretary of State and this Government for the working of the Chackai-Thambanoor Railway Extension is still pending, and the Extension is provisionally worked by the South Indian Railway Company as part of the Quilon-Trivandrum Section of the Travancore Railway.

The working of the Railway resulted in a loss of Bh. Rs 42,874 for the year ending 31st March 1938 representing the deficit in the interest guaranteed by the Government, the amount being worked out on yearly calculations in place of the

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half-yearly calculations hitherto followed, according to the revised orders of the Government of India. A sum of Bh Rs 15,052 has also been refunded by the Railway Company as a result of the acceptance by the Government of India of our contention that the loss in the working of the Travancore Railway should be apportioned between the Government of India and this Government in proportion to the capital outlay incurred on British and Indian State Sections of the Tinnevelly-Quilon line alone.

In this connection I am glad to inform the House that though the Government of India considered in 1932 that our contention that the advances made by the Secretary of State for India for discharge of Debentures should be charged interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent only was unjustified, they have, as a result of our representation, now agreed to charge interest on such advances at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent only. The saving involved is about Rupees half a lakh.

COMMERCIAL UNDERTAKINGS.

35. *Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project.*—Last year the House was informed that the original Power House for the project was found to be not quite satisfactory and that therefore a new Power House at a new site had to be constructed. The new Transformer Yard at Pallivasal has been fixed and the erection in the Yard is in progress. The new Power House building is under construction and I am glad to report that solid rock foundations have been obtained therefor. It is hoped that the installation of the machinery could be done by about the 3rd quarter of the next year. It is anticipated that the scheme will be in commercial service for about 3 months next year and an approximate revenue of Rs 1 lakh has been provided in the next year's budget under this scheme. The total expenditure as at the end of the current year is expected to be Rs 106·24 lakhs and the next year's provision is Rs 31·30 lakhs. Judging by the experience of similar works elsewhere such as Pykara and Mysore, the Scheme should be able to pay a substantial return on the outlay from the second year of its operation.

As power from the Power House at Pallivasal is not yet available, a small Power House has been built as a temporary measure at Kalamassery with second hand generating sets purchased from Coimbatore for meeting the demand for the supply of power to the Sri Chitra Mills, Alwaye. This had to be done in order to secure the market for electric supply and to avoid

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